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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OTRA CH TW US

SUBJECT: EXCERPTS FROM EA/PRCM WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

1. THE SCOTT REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)

SENATOR HUGH SCOTT'S REPORT TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON HIS JULY VISIT TO THE PRC APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD AUGUST 10 AND HAS STIRRED SOME PRESS INTEREST BECAUSE OF HIS HANDLING OF THE TAIWAN ISSUE. THE "NEW YORK TIMES" HIGHLIGHTED THE SENATOR'S ASSERTION THAT HE WAS TOLD IN THE PRC THAT THE CHINESE ARE READY "AT ANY TIME, TO TALK WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF TAIPEI AND TO TRADE WITH TAIWAN." (NOTE: THIS ALLEGED STATEMENT WAS MADE AT A SHANGHAI BANQUET, IN RESPONSE TO PERSISTENT QUESTIONING, AND NOT BY A TOP CHINESE LEADER.) OTHER POLICY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

-- SCOTT ASSERTED THAT CONTRARY TO THE ADVICE HE RECEIVED
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IN WASHINGTON, THE CHINESE "TALKED ABOUT TAIWAN AT LENGTH

UPON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE." HE ALSO NOTED THE VEHEMENCE WITH WHICH THE CHINESE INSISTED THAT CHINA'S CIVIL WAR "WAS STILL A WAR" AND "UNCONDITIONALLY A DOMESTIC AFFAIR."

-- HE CONCLUDED THAT THE PRC IS NO LONGER PREPARED TO ACQUIESCE INDEFINITELY IN US DELAY IN TAKING THE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND RE-AFFIRMED HIS VIEW THAT THERE IS "VERY WIDE SUPPORT" IN THE US FOR NORMALIZING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, EVEN IF THIS INVOLVES SEVERING DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH TAIWAN.

-- HE RECOMMENDED THAT WE "PRESS THE PROCESS OF CUTTING THIS GORDIAN KNOT" EARLY IN 1977, WITH THE ADDED CAUTION THAT WE SHOULD NOT SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIPEI UNTIL WE HAVE MADE A CONVINCING CASE "THAT THE RISKS OF DAMAGE TO THE LONGER TERM INTERESTS, SAFETY AND PROSPERITY OF TAIWAN THROUGH TAKING THAT STEP ARE NOT GREAT."

-- HE ESTIMATED THAT US PERFORMANCE ON COMMITMENTS UNDER THE 1954 MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY WITH THE ROC "CANNOT BE TAKEN AUTOMATICALLY FOR GRANTED," FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION OF FACTORS THAT MIGHT NEVERTHELESS DETER PEKING FROM ATTEMPTING TO RECOVER TAIWAN BY MILITARY MEANS.

-- AND, FINALLY, HE RECOMMENDED THAT WE ASK TAIPEI, IN ADDITION TO PEKING, TO PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE "IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION WHICH OFFERS PROMISE OF AVOIDING THE USE OF FORCE ON EITHER SIDE."

WE ARE BRAVELY FENDING OFF PRESS QUERIES (MINIMAL TO DATE) WITH THE SHIELD OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

4. SCHLESINGER'S GRAND TOUR (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PREPARATIONS APPEAR TO BE MOVING AHEAD FOR THE VISIT TO THE PRC NEXT MONTH BY FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM A MEMBER OF HIS PARTY THAT THE SCHLESINGER GROUP WILL ENTER THE PRC SEPTEMBER 7 FOR A STAY OF ABOUT THREE WEEKS. THE ITINERARY, WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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INCLUDES A NUMBER OF EYEBROW-RAISING FIRSTS, HAS APPARENTLY RECEIVED PRELIMINARY CHINESE APPROVAL AND CONSISTS OF PEKING, HU-HO-HAO-T'E, URUMCHI, I-NING (IN THE ILI VALLEY OF SINKIANG ON THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER), LHASA (WHICH WILL MAKE SCHLESINGER THE FIRST AMERICAN TO VISIT TIBET SINCE AT LEAST 1950, IF THE VISIT GOES AS PLANNED), CHENG TU, KWEILIN, NANCHANG, AND SHANGHAI. THE CITIES DROPPED BY THE CHINESE FROM THE LIST REQUESTED BY THE

SCHLESINGER PARTY ARE ALSO REVEALING: SHUANGCHENG TZU (THE PRC MISSILE TESTING CENTER), SIAN, LANCHOU, (WHERE A GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT IS LOCATED) PAOTOU (WHICH HAS A PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION REACTOR) SHENYANG, AND HARBIN. THE

SCHLESINGER PARTY IS NOT YET FIRM BUT TENTATIVELY INCLUDES ED LITVAK OF SAIS, DR. WILLIAM WHITSON OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, AND POSSIBLY JERRY SCHECTER OF "TIME" MAGAZINE. OTHER NAMES MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE RICHARD BARNETT, RICHARD HOLBROOKE OF "FOREIGN POLICY," AND SOMEONE FROM A TV NETWORK. SOUNDS LIKE QUITE A SHOW.

5. OTHER TRAVELLERS TO CHINA (UNCLASSIFIED)

FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE-INDUCED POSTPONEMENT OF MOST FOREIGN VISITS TO CHINA SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST, THE PRC HAS INDICATED THAT VISITS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER OR LATER WILL PROCEED AS PLANNED. ON THE US SIDE, THESE INCLUDE:

-- A SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY CENTER DELEGATION WILL ENTER THE PRC ON SEPTEMBER 7. THE ONLY CHANGE IS THAT THE CHINESE ASKED THE GROUP TO REVERSE THEIR ITINERARY SO THAT PEKING WOULD COME AT THE END OF THE VISIT.

-- CSC DELEGATIONS ON STEROID CHEMISTRY (SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 8) AND CHINESE PAINTING (ENTERING CHINA SEPTEMBER 28) HAVE HAD THEIR TRAVEL PLANS CONFIRMED.

-- FEDERAL RESERVE BANK CHAIRMAN ARTHUR BURNS STILL PLANS TO VISIT CHINA AS THE GUEST OF AMBASSADOR GATES FOLLOWING THE IMF MEETING IN MANILA IN EARLY OCTOBER. (WE ARE WORKING ON A BRIEFING BOOK FOR CHAIRMAN BURNS IN COOPERATION WITH S/P).

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OTHER ITEMS COVERED:

2. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DELEGATION (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. THE PRC EARTHQUAKE (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

6. EXPORT CONTROLS (CONFIDENTIAL)

7. HONG KONG COMMUNIST PAPER DEFENDS PAKISTAN REACTOR PURCHASE (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
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